

***Remarks***

The amendment to the claims do not add any new matter. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found at least in the claims as originally filed.

It is believed that the application is now in condition for examination. Early notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Version with Markings to Show Changes Made**

***In the Claims:***

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Once amended) [The use of] A method for providing latency to a pharmaceutically active agent comprising associating a fusion protein comprising a latency associated peptide and a proteolytic cleavage site [for providing latency to] with a pharmaceutically active agent, wherein said fusion protein provides latency to said pharmaceutically active agent.

Please amend claim 2 as follows:

2. (Once amended) The [use as claimed in] method of claim 1 wherein the latency associated peptide comprises the precursor peptide of TGF $\beta$ -1, 2, 3, 4 or 5.

Please amend claim 3 as follows:

3. (Twice amended) The [use as claimed in ] method of claim 1 wherein the proteolytic cleavage site is a matrix metalloproteinase (MMP) cleavage site.

Please amend claim 4 as follows:

4. (Once amended) The [use as claimed in] method of claim 1 wherein the pharmaceutically active agent is a growth factor, differentiation factor, cytokine, chemokine, trophic factor, cytokine inhibitor, cytokine receptor, free-radical scavenging enzyme, peptide

mimetic, protease inhibitor, tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinase sub class, inhibitor of serine protease, chemotherapeutic agent or peptide nucleic acid sequence.

Please amend claim 5 as follows:

5. (Once amended) The [use as claimed in] method of claim 1 wherein the fusion protein is in association with latent TGF $\beta$  binding protein.

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